

## Message Text

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64

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-20 SSO-00 ISO-00 PRS-01 AF-10

IO-14 EUR-25 H-03 PCH-02 SAB-01 SPC-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00

PA-04 USIE-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00

/128 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS

APPROVED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS

S/PRS - MR. HARE (INFO)

AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE

NEA/EGY - MR. ANDERSON

H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

S/S - MR. GAMMON

S/CCT - MR. HOFFACKER (INFO)

----- 035556

O 182107Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION NATO  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY SANAA BY POUCH

UNCLAS STATE 246500

TOSEC 289, ZFF MADRID ONLY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

S/S PASS MR. SISCO

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL  
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING  
DECEMBER 18, 1973:

QUOTE: Q. WHAT IS THE AMERICAN REACTION TO THE ANNOUNCE-  
MENT BY SYRIA THAT IT WILL BOYCOTT THE OPENING FRIDAY OF THE  
PEACE TALKS IN GENEVA?

A. FIRST, I WOULD HAVE TO SAY THAT ALL WE HAVE SEEN IN  
THIS DEPARTMENT THUS FAR ARE THE VARIOUS PRESS REPORTS ON  
THIS. TO MY KNOWLEDGE, WE HAVEN'T RECEIVED ANYTHING  
OFFICIALLY FROM THE SYRIANS; AND I WILL LEAVE ANY SUB-  
STANTIVE COMMENT ON THIS TO THE SECRETARY'S PARTY.

- - -

Q. WOULD YOU RECEIVE ANYTHING FROM THEM OFFICIALLY? DO  
YOU EXPECT TO RECEIVE ANYTHING?

A. ON BACKGROUND, WE THINK WE WOULD RECEIVE SOMETHING; YES.

Q. WHY? IN ANSWER TO WHAT? DID THEY RECEIVE AN  
INVITATION FROM YOU; DID THEY RECEIVE ANY INVITATION FROM

WALDHEIM?  
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A. ON BACKGROUND AGAIN, CERTAINLY THE SYRIANS, AS WELL AS  
THE OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES, HAVE ALL BEEN INVOLVED IN  
THIS QUESTION OF THE INVITATIONS ALL ALONG.

Q. THE FORMAL INVITATIONS HAVE NEVER GONE OUT, HAVE THEY?

A. NO.

Q. IS THERE ANY REASON THAT THE TALKS CAN NOT GO FORWARD ON FRIDAY IF SYRIA FAILS TO ATTEND?

A. ON BACKGROUND, WE CONTINUE TO EXPECT A PEACE CONFERENCE THIS WEEK.

MR. HARE: I WOULD LIKE TO, IN CONNECTION WITH THIS SITUATION IN ROME, THE TRAGIC CIRCUMSTANCES THERE, JUST MAKE ONE FURTHER COMMENT. I'M NOT IN A POSITION TODAY TO GIVE YOU ANY FACTS AS TO THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO DIED OR HOW MANY AMERICANS MIGHT HAVE DIED THERE. CERTAINLY, OUR DEEPEST REGRETS GO TO ALL OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO WERE KILLED AND THEIR FAMILIES. AND WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO OFFER OUR SYMPATHIES TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MOROCCO, AS PEOPLE, AT THE LOSS OF FOUR LIVES -- OFFICIALS -- WHO WERE ON THE PAN AMERICAN PLANE AND ALL OF WHOM WERE ENGAGED IN PROMOTING THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR COUNTRY. END QUOTE. RUSH

NOTE BY OCT: POUCHED SANAA.

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